

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 136  
**Version:** Third engrossment

**DATE:** March 22, 2013

**Authors:** Hansen and others

**Subject:** Definition of public official; public disclosure requirements

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### Overview

This bill expands the definition of “public official,” for purposes of the public disclosure laws contained in chapter 10A, to include county commissioners and judges. Exemptions from certain requirements are provided for judges, who are subject to ethics and disclosure rules in the Code of Judicial Conduct.

The new effect of this bill related to county commissioners is to require that they (1) file statements of economic interest with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board; (2) comply with conflict of interest and disclosure procedures; and (3) comply with the statutory gift ban.

The new effect of this bill related to judges and justices of the Supreme Court is that they must file statements of economic interest with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

### Section

- 1 Public official.** Adds judges, including district court judge, appeals court judge, and justice of the Supreme Court, and county commissioners to the definition of “public official” under the campaign finance and public disclosure law. The effect of this change is described in the overview above.
- 2 Conflicts of interest.** Exempts public officials who are judges from the section of law establishing procedures when the official has a conflict of interest. Judges are subject to conflict of interest standards and procedures established in the Code of Judicial Conduct.

**Section**

- 3**        **Definitions (gift ban).** Provides a conforming reference to reflect the addition of judges to the definition of “public official” in section 1.
- 4**        **Representation disclosure.** Exempts public officials who are judges from the section of law requiring disclosure of certain clients of the official. Judges are subject to disclosure standards established in the Code of Judicial Conduct.
- 5**        **Place of filing.** Provides that, if an official is both a “public official” and a “local official” as defined in the law (these officials include county commissioners of metropolitan-area counties), the official is only required to file a statement of economic interest with the campaign finance and public disclosure board, and is not required to file a second statement with the local political subdivision.
- 6**        **Waivers.** Permits the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, on a showing of good cause, to grant waive the requirement that a public official disclose the address of certain types of real property.
- 7**        **Effective date.** Provides that the bill is effective January 1, 2014, and applies to public officials elected or appointed to terms of office commencing on or after that date.